

(Washington, DC) – Today, U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) said that Wisconsin families will have a greater sense of security when it comes to their health care as key consumer protection provisions included in health insurance reform legislation go into effect tomorrow.

Congresswoman Moore said, **“For far too long, insurance companies could tell a child born with asthma – ‘Sorry, we can’t help you -- preexisting condition.’ For too long, they could tell someone just diagnosed with a major illness – ‘Sorry, we aren’t covering you anymore.’ For too long, they could tell someone who has always paid premiums – lying sick in the hospital, ‘Sorry, we’re not paying anymore. You’ve met your limit.’ Enough is enough. Wisconsinites can breathe a sigh of relief and feel more secure that this won’t happen ever again.”**

The following key consumer protections go into effect – for plans beginning or renewed starting tomorrow:

- Coverage cannot be canceled because you get sick.
- Children with preexisting conditions cannot be denied insurance. This provision will apply to all people in 2014.
- Children can stay on their parents’ insurance until age 26.
- Insurance plans cannot have lifetime payment limits.
- Insurance plans’ annual payment limits begin phase out -- will be completely eliminated by 2014.

Moore continued, **“These reforms give families peace of mind that rug won’t pulled out from under them the second someone gets sick. I’ll be the first to say it – this law isn’t perfect. We’ll have to improve it along the way, but I will stand up for these reforms and fight any effort to repeal them.”**

Key provisions also go into effect for women. Beginning tomorrow, women purchasing new plans will have the following benefits:

- No deductible or co-pay on preventive services such as mammograms, immunizations and pre-natal care.

- No longer need a referral to see an OB-GYN.

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